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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,680	12/15/2000	Vipin Samar	OR00-14001	6541
22835	7590	03/25/2004	EXAMINER	
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP			NGUYEN, CAM LINH T.	
508 SECOND STREET				
SUITE 201				
DAVIS, CA 95616			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2171	/0
DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P2e

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/741,680	SAMAR, VIPIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CamLinh Nguyen	2171	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5,7-13,15-21,23 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5,7-13,15-21,23 and 24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>11</u> . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments to claims 1 – 24 are acknowledged. Consequently, claims 6, 14, and 22 are cancelled. Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 13, 15 – 21, 23 – 24 are remained pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 13, 15 – 21, 23 - 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by O'Flaherty et al (U.S. 6,275,824).

♦ As per claim 1, 9, 17,

O'Flaherty discloses a system for control access data in a database comprising:

- "Receiving a command to perform an administrator function involving an object defined within the database system" (See Fig. 2A). The command can be made by type of users in the privileged classes (A, B, and C) (See col. 8, lines 46 – col. 9, lines 35). "An object defined within the database system" corresponds to a table or a portion of the table in the database system.

- "Determining if the object is a sensitive object that is associated with security functions". O'Flaherty teaches that in order to access to the object, it must determine the sensitivity level of the information (Col. 7, lines 10 - 15), and the sensitivity level of a resource is simply a value.
- "The sensitive object" corresponds to " a sensitive information portion 208" (col. 7, lines 15 in Fig. 2A,) where the "sensitive information portion 208" can include "a sensitive row contains sensitive data" see Fig. 2A.
- " The sensitive object and only the sensitive object is encrypted in the database system" See col. 10, lines 49 – 57.
- "If the object is not a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal database administrator... allowing the administrative function to proceed" See col. 8, lines 62 – col. 9, lines 35).
- "If the object is a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal system administrator, disallowing the administrative function" See col. 8, lines 46 – 61. The class A applications permits administrator performs administration functions in the data, therefore, it must check for user privileged for accessing these data (col. 8, lines 39 – 42).

♦ As per claim 2, 10, 18, O'Flaherty discloses:

- "A request to perform an operation" corresponds to "a command to perform an administrative function" See col. 8, lines 39 – 61.

♦ As per claim 3 - 5, 11 – 13, 19 – 21, O'Flaherty discloses:

O'Flaherty teaches that the data in a given row is encrypted with an encryption code, or by providing each data field with a unique encryption number. Clearly, the administrator must decrypt the data in order to access it.

◆ As per claim 7, 15, 23, O'Flaherty discloses:

- "Allowing the security officer to perform the administrative function". See col. 8, lines 39 – 61.

◆ As per claim 8, 16, 24, O'Flaherty discloses:

- O'Flaherty teaches about how to protect a sensitive data stored in the database. Therefore, the database must include a number of sensitive data items, and only specific sensitive users are allowed to access a given data item as shown in Fig. 2A, col. 8, lines 39 – 61.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 5, 7 – 13, 15 – 21, 23 - 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Lyson et al (U.S. 6,336,121) discloses a method and apparatus for securing and accessing data elements within a database.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CamLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is 305-1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-3900.

LN

Wayne Amsbury
WAYNE AMSBURY
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER